(d) Yes, Sir. AAI has initiated various short and long-terms action plans for replacement of the automation systems at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

Distribution of Deepawali Sweets

†2126. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tradition of distribution of sweet packets to those travelling by Indian Airlines and also to its employees on the day of Diwali existed every year;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuance of the above tradition this year;

(c) whether Indian Airlines would continue this tradition from the coming year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines distributes sweets to the passengers on the Diwali Day. There is, however, no tradition of distribution of sweet packets to the employees.

(b) There is no discontinuation of this tradition. The sweets could not be distributed this year as the supplier expressed his inability to provide the supply in suitable packing at the last moment.

(c) and (d) Depending on resources, Indian Airlines would like to continue this tradition in future.

(e) Does not arise.

IPO by Indian Airlines and Air India

2127. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National carriers, Indian Airlines and Air India are preparing for an IPO in this fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that SEBI norms of mandatory 50 per-cent independent directors on the board have to be followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India has appointed M/s DSP Merrill Lynch as Advisor for the IPO.

As regards Indian Airlines, the selection process for appointment of the Advisor for IPO is yet to be completed.

(c) As per the Listing Agreement, 50% of the Directors have to be independent, if the Chairman is an Executive Chairman and 33% of the Directors have to be independent, if the Chairman is a non-Executive Chairman.

Disruption in Schedule of Alliance Air

2128. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of pilots left the Alliance Airlines opting for new private carriers;

(b) if so, whether this has led to drastic curtailments in the schedule of the airline;

(c) the steps Government taken/proposed to take to tackle the situation;

(d) whether Government have taken steps to provide alternate employment apportunities to the workers of Alliance Air in case of termination of service of the airlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some curtailments/adjustments have been made in the schedule within the existing resources.

(c) Alliance air is in negotiation with placement companies abroad for recruitment of Commanders. Advertisement has also been released on the website of Indian Airlines for recruitment of Co-pilots.

(d) to (f) Presently there is no proposal for termination of service of Alliance Air.